

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 2, 2005. Claims 1-6, 9, 11-22, 24-35, 37-42, 45-53, and 55-58 are pending in the application. By the present amendment, claims 7, 8, 10, 23, 36, 43, 44 and 54 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 22, 39 and 40 have been amended. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection in view of the amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 39 as being dependent on itself. Claim 39 has been amended to address this issue. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

By the Office Action, claims 10, 36 and 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph as being incomplete for omitting essential elements. While it is believed that these claims provide the needed recitation to be easily understood in the context of the application, Claims 10, 36 and 54 have been cancelled without prejudice to advance prosecution of the case.

By the Office Action, claims 1-7, 9, 11-12, 14, 16-17, 20-21, 22, 26-27, 29, 31-35, 37-38, 40-43, 45, 47-48, 51-53 and 55-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,208, 171 to Kumagai et al. (hereinafter Kumagai).

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection for a number of reasons; however, to further prosecution of the case, claims 1, 22 and 40 have been amended to include the subject matter of claims 8 (and 7); 23; and 44 (and 43) respectively.

Claim 1 now includes the subject matter of claims 7 and 8. Claim 8 has been deemed allowable by the Examiner if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 22 now includes the subject matter of claim 23. Claim 23 has been deemed allowable by the Examiner if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 40 now includes the subject matter of claims 43 and 44. Claim 44 has been deemed allowable by the Examiner if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Reconsideration and early allowance in the case is respectfully requested.

Claim 58 has been added and includes the subject matter of claims 1 and 18. Claim 18 has been deemed allowable by the Examiner if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 58 is also believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowability of claims 8, 15, 18, 19, 23-25, 28, 30, 39, 44, 46, 49, 50 and 57 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the

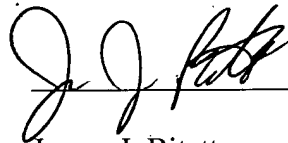
application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested.

With the addition of a fourth (4th) independent claim a fee of \$200 is due; the office is authorized to charge the fee of \$200 to applicant's IBM Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's IBM Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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